(2) Amendments to the Abstract

Kindly delete the original abstract on page 20 of the specification and replace it with the following:

-- A device (10) is described for automatically separating solid and liquid phases of a suspension (78) and for purifying magnetic microparticles (76) loaded with organic, e.g., biological or biochemical substances. The device includes a process area (12) with devices, which move in a cyclic manner for transporting the magnetic microparticles (76) in the x-direction. A first guide (14) is used for supplying sample containers (P) in the x-direction and second guides (18) are used for supplying reagent containers (R) in the y-direction to the process area (12). The second guides (18) in the y-direction extend at an angle (α) of 30 to 150° to the x-direction. A carrier element (24), including carrier plates (24a, 24b, 24c) can be moved back and forth in the x-direction and can be lifted and lowered in the z-direction. The reagent containers (R) can be positioned according to the grid of the transfer elements (28), shown configured as rod-shaped permanent magnets or electromagnets, by introduction into the process area (12), taking place at an angle (α) and can be rejected by ejection in the same direction into a waste collector. --